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SECRET GARDEN TOUR SHOWS OFF CAPITAL CITY'S PAST

Gardens were a special part of summer life when the Original Governors' Mansion was built in Helena in 1888.

The spirit of those more tranquil times is being kept alive with the Original Governors' Mansion Restoration Society's fifth Secret Garden Tour Sunday, June 27th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those who know where the secret gardens are say that all of the rain Helena has received should make for a great show.

The OGM just east of downtown Helena at Sixth Avenue and Ewing Street, will host the event that includes six of the community's most beautiful gardens that will be open to the public. Maps to the gardens will be at the OGM that day, and there will be an open-air market featuring crafts and other items.

Advance tickets for the tour are \$12 and \$15 the day of the event. For more information call 406-444-4710. Tickets are available at the Montana Historical Society Museum Store, both Leslie's Hallmark locations and both Mountain West Bank locations in Helena.

Lunch will be served on the OGM grounds and ice cream cones and hot fudge sundaes will be for sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch tickets are \$12 and must be purchased before June 20th.

A special "secret hunt" also will be in the OGM with clues provided to identify garden related paintings and objects in the mansion. Kathryn Fehlig was selected to

create the third limited edition print commemorating the event that will be on sale that day. Major sponsors of the event are Bank of the Rockies and the Montana History Foundation.

Raffle tickets will be available the day of the event for a showpiece quilt by Creative Stitches, a Blue Ray DVD player, pearl and garnet necklace from Eaton Turner Jewelry, one night stay at Carolina Bed & breakfast, a garden bench from Lowes, full car detail from Helena Motors, oil change and lube from Helena Auto Center, dinner/theatre package from Silver Star restaurant and Grandstreet Theater, and a \$25 gift certificate from Forget Me Not Floral. All proceeds from the event go for restoration of the historic mansion.

Garden owners and volunteers will be at all the stops on the tour to answer questions and help you learn to create a special garden of your own.